



Agenda Item 2

**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

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**Legislation Committee
December 12, 2008
Minutes**

Bill Dodd, Chair
Napa County and Cities

Scott Haggerty, Vice Chair
Alameda County

Tom Ammiano
City and County of San Francisco

Tom Azumbrado
U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development

Tom Bates
Cities of Alameda County

Dean J. Chu
Cities of Santa Clara County

Dave Cortese
Association of Bay Area Governments

Dorene M. Giacomini
U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal D. Glover
Contra Costa County

Anne W. Halsted
San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission

Steve Kinsey
Marin County and Cities

Sue Lempert
Cities of San Mateo County

Jake Mackenzie
Sonoma County and Cities

Jon Rubin
San Francisco Mayor's Appointee

Bijan Sartipi
State Business, Transportation
and Housing Agency

James P. Spering
Solano County and Cities

Adrienne J. Tissier
San Mateo County

Amy Worth
Cities of Contra Costa County

Ken Yeager
Santa Clara County

Steve Heminger
Executive Director

Ann Flemer
Deputy Executive Director, Operations

Andrew B. Fremier
Deputy Executive Director,
Bay Area Toll Authority

Therese W. McMillan
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

Vice Chair Yeager called the committee to order at 11:20 a.m. Committee members in attendance: Azumbrado, Chu, Giacomini, Haggerty, Lempert, Spering, Worth. Also in attendance Commissioner Bates, Tissier.

Minutes of the Nov. 14, 2008 meeting were approved after a motion by Commissioner Chu and a second by Commissioner Worth.

**MTC Advisory Committee Work Plans —
Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC)**

Ursula Vogler of MTC staff introduced EDAC member Rich Hedges, who reported on EDAC's 2007-08 work plan accomplishments and the work plan's update for 2008-09.

State Budget Update

Rebecca Long said the governor announced a new budget deadline of Jan. 15th, or else the Legislature remains in session until the budget is resolved.

Contract Amendment for Legislative Representation in Sacramento for FY 2008-09

Randy Rentschler reviewed a contract extension through Oct. 31, 2009 for Carter, Wetch & Associates for up to \$115,800 to provide legislative advocacy services for MTC. He said the Administration Committee approved the contract extension on Dec. 10th.

In the discussion that followed, the Commissioners gave direction that given hard economic times, everyone is tightening their belts and that staff should seek to keep the contract amount the same as last year. Commissioner Azumbrado said that it would not be appropriate to deny a pay increase to one firm, on the grounds of a poor economy, unless we were to deny it to all contractors. Staff was further directed to ask the legislative advocates to attend a future Commission meeting. With the understanding that a contract increase of up to 5 percent may not be exercised, the contract extension was approved after a motion by Commissioner Lempert and a second by Commissioner Chu.

Final 2009 Legislative Program

Mr. Rentschler presented the final program proposed for the 2009 state and federal legislative sessions. Regarding a proposed gasoline fee increase for the highway and road system, Commissioner Chu suggested requiring it to be annually adjusted for inflation. Mr. Rentschler addressed taxes vs. fees, indicating that he would need to investigate the legality of indexing fees.

Commissioner Bates said having a coalition is important, and that the original Measure B failed on its first try because of not having enough for public transit. He said that what's needed is a dedicated revenue source. Also, he said that legislators are unlikely to support

a fee. Commissioner Worth commented on item six in the program that would seek to broaden STA eligibility for Lifeline purposes. Commissioner Worth noted that smaller systems were struggling with their basic system, and that allowing new uses of the funds could threaten existing services.

In response to Commissioner Giacomini, staff would return to the Committee with a scorecard to report on the agency's 2008 legislative program. Regarding the economic recovery proposal in Washington, D.C., Commissioner Yeager asked how the Bay Area can preclude competing against other projects in our own region. Steve Heminger advised against such decisions being made in Washington or through "earmarks," and indicated that we would be recommending that Congress use existing formulas that would preserve the Commission's decision-making authority, adding that the need is "broad and deep."

Following a motion by Commissioner Worth and second by Commissioner Chu, the 2009 legislative program, without any changes, was referred to the Commission for approval.

Tom Bulger's Report was received by the Committee.

Other Business/Public Comment/Adjourn

There was no public comment. The committee's next meeting was scheduled for Jan. 9, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.